Vacant posts of Chief Justices in High Courts

*4. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will he Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State High Courts where the posts of the Chief Justice are lying vacant;

(b) the dates since when they have been lying vacant; and

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up the said vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) As on 24.7.87, the posts of Chief Justices were vacant in the High Courts of Allahabad and Bombay with effect from 16.7.87 and 1.5.87 respectively.

The matter regarding filling up the post of Chief Justices in these High Courts is engaging the attention of the Government.

Growth rate of industrial production

*5. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of growth of industrial production during the past six months (January—June, 1987);

(b) whether the target of annual industrial growth for the 7th Plan has been achieved; and

(c) if not, what are the main reasons for the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) According to the C.S.O's Quick Index of Industrial Production for January, 1987, at rate of growth of 7.7 per cent was achieved during April—January 1986-87 over April—January 1985-86. The growth rate in 1985-86 was 8.7 per cent. The average for the first two years of the Plan is expected to be around 8 per cent.

(c) The rate of growth of industrial production would have been higher but for certain demand and infrastructural constraints.

Low Cost Power sub-Stations

*6. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new low cost power sub-station had been designed by the Rural Electrification Corporation a few years back;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such sub-stations are proposed to be set up in all the states;

(d) if so, what are the names of the states where these stations are to be set up; and

(e) by when the work in this respect is likely to be started and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Rural Electrification Corporation has circulated to all the State Electricity Boards the standardised design of a low cost 33/11 kV sub-station for supply of power to rural areas. The new design makes use of certain automatic control equipment and the requirement of land and buildings has also been reduced.

(c) to (e) The State Electricity Boards which have initiated action to set up sub-stations with the new design include those in Uttar Pra-

desh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal. The work of setting up 33/11 kV sub-stations is a continuous process and about 30 sub-stations of the new design are expected to be set up by the State Electricity Boards during the current financial year.

Gas Produced at Nariman and Kovilakpall

*7. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of natural gas being produced annually at Nariman and Kovilkapall at present;

(b) how this natural gas is being utilised;

(c) whether ONGC is aware of the fact that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is interested in setting up a small power project to generate electricity from natural gas; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The average quantity of associated natural gas being produced at Narimanam and Kovilkalpal is 4430 M^3/day and 29916 M^3/day respectively.

(b) The associated gas is presently being flared. ONGC have proposed to supply gas from Narimanam-I to M/s. Indian Steel Rolling Mills at Nagapattinam from Oct. 1987.

(c) and (d) Tamil Nadu Electricity Board have had discussions with ONGC regarding supply of gas from Kovilkalpal for power generation and a Feasibility Report is reported to be under consideration of the TNEB and the State Government.

Review of the working of Dual Pricing Policy of Cooking Gas

*8. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received about blackmarketing of cooking gas after introducing the dual pricing policy;

(b) whether Government have recently made any critical review of the working of the dual pricing policy for cooking gas, introduced in March, 1986 to mobilise additional revenue, and to check malpractices in its distribution; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The main purpose of subsidising LPG used as domestic fuel is to induce the consumers to use it in preference to Kerosene which can be released to the people in rural areas and other vulnerable sections of the society for use for domestic illumination and cooking. This in turn, will reduce the pressure on forest fuel thereby helping preservation of forest resources.

2. In the past while the price was kept at the subsidised level for Non-domestic commercial users, such consumers were to be charged a higher rate of deposit for the use of cylinders beyond a particular number. There is no justification for the subsidy available to domestic consumers being enjoyed by those who use this fuel for commercial purposes. The subsidy on LPG is no more available